

FIRST SPEECH ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

For your first speech, you may select from any of the following four types:

Music Speech

For this speech, you are required to present a song or composition of your choice to the class and to share with us specifically:

- Information about the artist (biography)
- What the song is about
- Why the song is important/meaningful to you – why have you chosen to share this song with the class?

Process Speech

For this speech, you are required to explain a process. A process by definition is, “a series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end.” Therefore, in your speech you must clearly communicate each step or action in the process as well as the end goal or the ultimate desired outcome. Think very carefully about your topic and ask yourself, “Will my audience benefit from better understanding how to do this?” Remember, how-to-bake-a-cake is not a good topic.

Personal Experience / Narrative Speech

For this speech, you will share a personal experience that was significant in your life. This experience ideally should be one that has shaped you in some way as an individual or that has had a lasting impact on you. Consider the following structural elements:

- Clear moral or purpose: There should be a very clear reason why you chose to share this story, with this audience, at this time
- Personal Connection: The experience should involve you; should focus on something that impacted you personally in some way
- Audience Connection: Your audience should be able to easily understand the context of the story and should be drawn in; relate it to your audience members, help them share the experience with you
- Detailed Characters and Imagery: Be descriptive with your language; let your audience see, hear, touch, smell, taste and feel what you saw, heard, touched, smelled, tasted and felt during this experience
- Pacing and Organization: There should be a clear beginning and ending and all your main points should relate back to the moral or purpose (see above)

Cultural / Personal Artifact Speech

For this speech you are required to select a tangible object to present to the class. The primary focus of this speech will be to share the significance of this object in your life and/or your cultural background. Culture in this sense is a broad term. Examples of your culture might be: Persian; college student; parent; child; employee; athlete; artist; etc. It is not necessarily restricted to your ethnicity or heritage. The artifact that you choose should represent something about who you are, where you came from, your identity or group membership, etc. You should plan on bringing the object in as a visual aid unless it is too large or difficult to bring, then a picture or some sort of visual representation would suffice. Your main points should cover things like:

- A description of the object
- The significance in your life
- Why you chose to share it with the class
- How it inspires you, motivates you, challenges you, etc.

Please be sure all objects are appropriate to share with this particular group of students. Be sensitive to cultural and personal differences.

Length: 4 – 5 minutes

Points: 150 points total (15% of your final grade)

- **Speech: 100 points**
- **Hardcopy of Speech Content (essay or outline format acceptable): 50 points**

Additional Assignment Details:

- In order to receive credit for this assignment, you must be present and ready to speak on the day you are assigned to speak. If you do not show up, you will receive zero points, period – no exceptions will be made.
- If you are late, disruptive, inattentive or if you leave early on the day you are assigned to speak, I will cut your point total in half for your speech grade.
- You must turn in your full-sentence outline to your instructor prior to delivering your speech at the very beginning of class. This is to be typed and stapled together neatly with your full name clearly indicated. Failure to turn in your outline will result in your receiving zero points for this assignment, period – no exceptions will be made.
- Visual aids are allowed but not required for this assignment.
- If you exceed 6 minutes I will ask you to stop. Please be very mindful of this as we are on a tight schedule with a large class and it is imperative that everyone be allowed adequate time to speak. I do not want to have to cut you off but if need be, I will.
- Have fun!! Remember that this is your first formal, graded speech and perfection is far from expected. I expect that you prepare and practice and that you present a well-organized, dynamic and effective speech. I do not expect that you deliver a perfect speech. Please take this opportunity to share your speech with the class but also to learn and grow from the experience of speaking. Relax and do your best! If you put in the time and effort, you will reap the reward of success – I promise!